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The President announced the death of the Hon. Francis C. Gray, and made a few appropriate remarks on the character and public services of the deceased; and, on motion of Mr. SAVAGE, *Voted*, That the Society entertain a deep sense of the loss which it has sustained in the death of Mr. Gray; and that the President be requested, at some future meeting, to nominate a suitable person to prepare a Memorial of the deceased for publication.

GEORGE R. RUSSELL, Esq., was elected a Resident Member in the place of Hon. Samuel Hoar, deceased.

The Standing Committee, through their Chairman, made a report relative to the preservation of the records of the Society, and to the fitting-up of the room for the Dowse Library.

A letter was read from the executors of the will of Mr. Dowse, proposing an appropriation of three thousand dollars for the purpose of fitting up and furnishing the room for the Dowse Library.

Mr. AMES exhibited for examination the day-book of Dr. Joseph Warren, containing entries of his professional charges, nearly up to the time of his death.

FEBRUARY MEETING.

In consequence of the unprepared state of the rooms, in the heating apparatus, the Standing Committee voted to omit the day-meeting at the rooms, and accept the invitation of Hon. Charles Francis Adams to meet at his

house in the evening. Accordingly, the Society held their stated monthly meeting on Thursday evening, Feb. 12, at half-past seven o'clock, at the house of Mr. Adams, No. 57, Mount-Vernon Street, Boston; the President, Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, in the chair.

The Librarian announced donations from the State of Rhode Island; the Trustees of the State Library, New York; Union College, Schenectady; the Regents of the Lunatic Asylum of South Carolina; the American Antiquarian Society; Judge Theron Metcalf; Dr. Henry Ingersoll Bowditch; Henry Stevens, Esq., London; George F. Houghton, Esq., of St. Alban's, Vermont; Benjamin Loring, Esq., of Boston; William G. Brooks, Esq.; D. Ricketson, Esq., New Bedford; Mr. Theodore Augustus Neal, of Salem; Mr. J. H. Hickcox, Albany, N.Y.; and from Messrs. Bowditch, Robbins, and Winthrop, of the Society.

The President placed upon the table a copy of the By-laws of the New-England Society of Quincy, Ill., the gift of S. Hopkins Emery, of that place.

On the nomination of the President, the Society appointed Mr. Ticknor, now absent in Europe, to prepare a Memoir of our late associate, Hon. Francis C. Gray, deceased, for the Society's Collections.

Mr. SAVAGE communicated interesting information relating to Rev. John Allen, a graduate of Harvard College, 1643, at one time Vicar of Rye in England, and son of Rev. John Allen, of Dedham in the Bay.

He also presented an original letter, written by Cotton Mather, dated "Boston, 23d 8mo., 1699," to the widow of his uncle, Rev. John Cotton, of Charleston,

S.C., and previously of Plymouth Church, condoling with her upon the death of her husband.

Dr. SHURTLEFF stated that the executor of the Hon. Francis C. Gray had given to the Society a copy of the "blue laws" of Connecticut, and the French medal of Washington, which were of the property of the deceased.

Dr. ROBBINS, from the Standing Committee, exhibited several articles belonging to the cabinet of the Society; viz., —

1. Cambridge College Theses, 1678, by John Cotton, Cotton Mather, Grindall Rawson, and Urian Oakes.
2. A manuscript copy of the laws of Harvard College, 1655. This was the copy given to Jonathan Mitchell in 1683, and contains his "admittatur" of that year.
3. A curious box of different kinds of wood from buildings, structures, &c., of historical interest; given by John F. Watson, Esq., of Philadelphia, in 1833.
4. The epaulets worn by Washington at the siege of Yorktown. Washington gave them to his aid, Colonel Humphreys, by whom they were presented to the Society in 1804, accompanying his gift with an interesting letter of that date.

Boston, Oct. 3, 1804.

DEAR SIR, — I put into your hands a pair of *epaulets*, which were in habitual use by General Washington at the successful siege of Yorktown in Virginia, and which were worn by him on the day when he resigned his commission of Commander-in-chief to Congress at the close of the Revolutionary war. These may therefore, without employing a very bold figure of speech, be denominated the dumb and imperishable witnesses of his glory as a hero and a patriot. However we may sometimes be inclined to think too lightly of events which

are so familiar to us from their having happened in our own age, what an association of interesting ideas may not the view of any thing which was present on those glorious occasions produce in the minds of future generations!

These badges of military distinction, formerly attached to so illustrious a personage, and always destined, by the substance of which they are composed, to co-exist with the long series of future generations, may perhaps be deemed worthy of being preserved among the frail insignia of human greatness by the Historical Society of Massachusetts; in which case, they are offered for acceptance by the person to whom the General gave them, and who has the honor to subscribe himself,

Very respectfully, dear sir,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

D. HUMPHREYS.

The Rev. JOHN ELIOT, D.D.,

Corresponding Secretary of the Historical Society.

Mr. DEANE gave an interesting summary of a bibliographical article prepared by him on Governor Hutchinson's Historical Publications, and afterwards published in the April number of Richardson's "Historical Magazine." This paper, as revised, with some additions, by the writer of it, here follows.

HUTCHINSON'S HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS.

BY CHARLES DEANE, ESQ.

GOVERNOR HUTCHINSON possessed rare opportunities for writing the history of his native State; and his qualifications in every respect admirably fitted him for this labor. The motives which led him to undertake the work, and the materials he

used in preparing it, are thus stated in the preface to his first volume : —

“ The repeated destruction of ancient records and papers by fire in the town of Boston first inclined me to endeavor the preservation of such materials as remained proper for an History of the Massachusetts Colony. Many such came to me from my ancestors, who, for four successive generations, had been principal actors in public affairs ; * among the rest, a manuscript history of Mr. William Hubbard, which is carried down to the year 1680, but, after 1650, contains but few facts. The former part of it has been of great use to me. It was so to Dr. Mather in his History, of which Mr. Neale's is little more than an abridgment. I made what collection I could of the private papers of others of our first settlers ; but in this I have not had the success I desired. The descendants of some of them are possessed of many valuable letters and other manuscripts, but have not leisure or inclination to look into them themselves, and yet will not suffer it to be done by others. I am obliged to no person more than to my friend and brother, the Rev. Mr. Mather, † whose library has been open to me, as it had been before to the Rev. Mr. Prince, who had taken from thence the greatest and most valuable part of what he had collected.”

Some idea of the extent and value of the materials used by Hutchinson in preparing his first volume may be formed by referring to the Appendix to that book, and also by consulting the volume of Original Papers afterwards published by him. It is a little singular that he did not consult or make use of Governor Winthrop's History while writing his work. Nearly ten years before its publication, Prince had announced on the cover of the first part of the second volume of his Annals, that he had lately received this “ most authentic and valuable journal ” of Governor Winthrop ; so that Hutchinson could not have been ignorant of its existence. He, however, had the benefit of this History at second-hand, through Hubbard.

* For genealogical notices of Governor Hutchinson's family, see Farmer's Geneal. Reg. pp. 155-6; N. E. Hist. and Geneal. Reg. vol. i. pp. 297-310.

† Rev. Samuel Mather, son of Cotton Mather. He married Hannah Hutchinson, a sister of the governor.

Our chief purpose here is to furnish an account of the different editions of Hutchinson's History, copies of each of which now lie before us, and to include a brief notice of his miscellaneous publications.

The first volume of the History was originally published at Boston in 1764. It is entitled "The | History | of the | Colony | of | Massachusetts-Bay, | from the | first settlement thereof | in 1628, | until its incorporation | with the | Colony of Plymouth, Province of Main, &c., | by the | Charter of King William and Queen Mary, | in 1691. | Historia, non ostentationi, sed fidei, veritatisque componitur. | Plin. Epist. L. 7, E. 33. | By Mr. Hutchinson, | Lieutenant-Governor of the Massachusetts Province. | Boston, New-England: | Printed by Thomas & John Fleet, at the *Heart* and *Crown* | in Cornhill, MDCCLXIV." pp. 566, 8vo.

In the Boston "Evening Post" of 1764, printed by T. and J. Fleet, is the following announcement, under date of July 30: "Ready for the press, and speedily will be published by T. & J. Fleet, the History of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay" (&c., citing the title of the first volume). "By the Lieutenant-Governor of the Massachusetts." In the same paper, Dec. 17, we find, "This day is published, and to be sold in Union Street, opposite the Corn Field, The History of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay." &c. "By the Honourable Mr. Hutchinson," &c. Then follows the table of contents at length, as it appears in the first volume. In the advertisement of July 30, above referred to, that part of the History is announced to appear in "Two vols. 8vo." The notice was corrected in the next issue of the paper.

This volume was, the next year (1765), reprinted at "London: Printed for Mr. Richardson, in Pater-noster Row," and is styled "The Second Edition." It has the same number of pages as the first edition, and is printed almost line for line throughout. The date on the titlepage of this issue was first printed "MDCCLX;" the V, doubtless, being accidentally

omitted. Subsequently a new title was printed, correcting the error, and was pasted into some of the copies. This is observable in the copy in the College Library, which is not the only one that has come under our notice. This error—by no means an infrequent one, and which, in other instances, has been a source of great perplexity to bibliographers*—has occasioned some misapprehension as to the time when the first edition of this part of the History was published. Allen refers it to 1760; and he is followed by the Hist. and Geneal. Reg., vol. i. p. 310.

The second part (or volume) was published in 1767. The title reads thus: “The | History | of the | Province | of | Massachusetts-Bay | from the | Charter of King William and Queen Mary | in 1691 | until the year 1750. | By Mr. Hutchinson, | Lieutenant-Governor of the Province. | Boston, New England : | Printed by Thomas and John Fleet in Cornhill, | and sold in Union Street, opposite to the Cornfield. | MDCC-LXVII.” 539 pp., including an Index to both volumes. This is advertised in the “Evening Post” of July 13, 1767, as “Just Published, and to be had in Union Street, opposite to the Cornfield.”

While the author was engaged in preparing this volume, an event occurred which came near depriving us of this portion of his labors. Hutchinson was charged with having favored the passage of the Stamp Act. The minds of the people here were greatly excited; and on the evening of the 26th of August, 1765, an infuriated mob broke into his house in Boston, and destroyed and scattered all his furniture, books, papers, &c. In the preface to this volume, he says, —

* The claim which for a long time was awarded to Caxton, of having introduced printing into England, was many years since controverted by the exhibition of a book printed at Oxford, and bearing the date M.CCCC.LXVIII., six years before the first issue from Caxton's press in that country. There has been a long controversy respecting this Oxford book; and the latest and best opinion appears to be, that the numeral X was omitted in the date either by accident or design, and that the true date is M.CCCC.LXXVIII. Caxton's claim has also been contested on other grounds.

“The loss of many papers and books, in print as well as manuscript, besides my family memorials, can never be repaired. For several days, I had no hopes of recovering any considerable part of my History: but by the great care and pains of my good friend and neighbor, the Rev. Mr. Eliot, who received into his house all my books and papers * which were saved, the whole manuscript, except eight or ten sheets, was collected together; and, although it had lain in the street scattered abroad several hours in the rain, yet so much of it was legible as that I was able to supply the rest, and transcribe it. The most valuable materials were lost, some of which I designed to have published in the Appendix. I pray God to forgive the actors in and advisers to this most savage and inhuman injury; and I hope their posterity will read with pleasure and profit what has so narrowly escaped the outrage of their ancestors.

“The hazard which attends such papers, together with the request of many of my friends, induced me to publish my manuscript sooner than I intended.

“I have carried the story down to the year 1750, but that part which relates to the last twenty years in a more general way; being deprived of some papers which would have enabled me to render it more particular and circumstantial.”

He also adds, relative to his plan in writing the first part of his History, —

“Some of my friends of the Colony of New Plymouth took it unkindly that I said no more of their affairs in the first part of the History. My principal object was the Massachusetts Colony: besides, I never could meet with many papers relative to Plymouth. From such papers as I have been able to obtain, I have prepared the best summary I could, to which I shall give a place in the Appendix.”

The “summary” there given is taken chiefly from Bradford’s manuscript History, the whole of which has been recently published by this Society.

This volume was the next year reprinted at “London: Printed by J. Smith, near Wellclose-Square; for G. Kearsly,

* It is said that some of these papers, thus happily rescued from destruction, for a long time after bore the foot-prints of the Vandal mob, in the mud which still adhered to them.

at No. 1 in Ludgate-Street, and W. Davenhill, at No. 8 in Cornhill. MDCCLXVIII." This is styled "Vol. ii. The Second Edition." It is printed nearly page for page throughout with the first edition.

In 1769, Thomas and John Fleet published at Boston "A Collection of Original Papers Relative to the History of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay," in 576 pp. 8vo. This volume is sometimes lettered on the back as "vol. 3" of Hutchinson's History. Copies in the College Library and in the Athenæum are thus lettered. In the preface, the editor (of course, Hutchinson) says, —

"The natural increase of people upon the British continent of North America is so great as to make it highly probable, that, in a few generations more, a mighty empire will be formed there.

"The rise and progress of the several Colonies, of which this empire will be constituted, will be subjects of entertainment for speculative and ingenious minds in distant ages.

"He who rescues from oblivion interesting historical facts is beneficial to posterity as well as to his contemporaries; and the prospect thereof to a benevolent mind causes that employment to be agreeable and pleasant, which otherwise would be irksome and painful.

"The papers of which this volume consists are intended to support and elucidate the principal facts related in the first part of the History of Massachusetts Bay, and may serve as an Appendix to it.* The author of that History was possessed of many other ancient and very curious original papers, which are irrecoverably lost by an unfortunate event sufficiently known. If this collection shall be favorably received, another volume of papers will probably be published, to serve as an Appendix to the second part of the same History."

* The first article in this collection is the Massachusetts Colony charter, which, the editor says, had "never been printed. There are," he continues, "very few manuscript copies of it. Those are liable to so many accidents, that it is thought proper to publish it as the most likely means of preventing its being irrecoverably lost." This is printed from a copy attested by John Winthrop, governor, March 19, 1643-4. The statement that it is here first printed is an error. It was printed *eighty years before* this, by J. Green, Boston, 1689, — a copy of which early impression is in the library of the Historical Society. This was evidently taken from the "*Dupl.*" of the charter now at Salem.

This is advertised in the "Evening Post" of Oct. 9, 1769: "Just Published, A Collection of Original Papers," &c. "Subscribers are desired to send for their Books to T. & J. Fleet, at the Heart & Crown in Cornhill." In the next issue of the paper, Oct. 16, the book is advertised as "A Volume of Curious Papers collected by his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, which may serve as an Appendix to his History of the Massachusetts Bay." And, in the paper of Oct. 30, there is added, "And, if favourably received, another volume will probably be published," &c., as above quoted from the preface.

This volume, of which many of the original manuscripts composing it are in the libraries of the Historical Society and the Antiquarian Society, has never been reprinted; and the additional volume thus contingently promised never made its appearance.

The next and latest edition of the first and second parts of this History was published in 1795. In the "Columbian Centinel" of Dec. 30 of that year, appears, for the first time there, the following advertisement:—

"Thomas and Andrews, Faust's Statue, No. 45 Newbury Street, Boston, Have lately published the following very valuable Books, viz: (in two large octavo volumes, price four dollars.) The History of Massachusetts, from the first settlement thereof, in 1628, until the year 1750, a period of 122 years. By Thomas Hutchinson, Esq., Late Governor of Massachusetts. The 3d Edition, with additional Notes and Corrections. Subscribers are requested to send for their Books."*

The first volume was "Printed at Salem, by Thomas C. Cushing, For Thomas and Andrews," pp. 478, besides 10 pp. of index. The second volume was "Printed at Boston, by Manning and Loring," for the same parties, and contains 452 pp.,

* Then follows a list of other works published by them. "Also in one large 8vo vol. (a necessary companion to the above) with a large sheet map, price 2 dollars, The History of the District of Maine. By James Sullivan, &c., &c." Then follow Williams's History of Vermont and Lendrum's History of the Revolution.

including 4 pp. of index. The index of the former editions is here divided, and the portions which refer to each volume printed therein. On the reverse of the titlepage to the first volume is this note :—

“In this Edition, besides many corrections, some additional Notes are placed in the margin, which are inclosed [thus]. Mr. Hutchinson's sentiments respecting allegiance and the political connection of this country with Great Britain, are distinguished by italic letters.”

The “additional notes” are very few and brief, not consisting of above thirty lines in all. They have been ascribed to a distinguished scholar and antiquary, many years since deceased; but, in the judgment of some whose opinions are entitled to respect, on insufficient grounds. The “corrections” made must have been mere verbal ones, besides those few indicated in the table of Errata in the second volume of the previous editions. This edition, as to paper and printing, is the poorest of all.

Eleven years previously to this, Isaiah Thomas commenced a reprint of this History in the “Royal American Magazine,” a monthly publication, which began in January, 1774, and came to an untimely end in April, 1775; the number for March being probably the last issued. It was printed in a form to be separated from the Magazine, and probably was in most cases so separated when the Magazine has been bound. A copy of the latter, “volume i.,” from January to December inclusive, is in the library of the Historical Society, and contains 128 pp.* of the History bound in at the end. All but two of the unbound numbers (which were probably fifteen in all),

* I have for some years had 128 pp. of this fragment of Hutchinson's History, but was ignorant of the circumstances attending its publication. A few months since, I called the attention of my friend Mr. Haven, of the Antiquarian Society at Worcester, to it, who at that time had no recollection of ever having heard of such an attempted edition. Since then, however, he has informed himself, and has kindly afforded me the desired explanation. I am also indebted to him for other valuable information in preparing this article.

with the History, which extends only to the 152d page, are in the library of the Antiquarian Society at Worcester. The first part of the title of the History corresponds to that of the first and second editions: then follows, "By Mr. Hutchinson, Late Lieutenant-Governor, and now Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Massachusetts Province. * * * * * The Third Edition. Boston: Printed and sold by I. Thomas, near the Market." No date.

The prospectus of the Magazine was first issued July 1, 1773, and was again published in the "Spy" in January, 1774, with an explanatory advertisement from the editor, I. Thomas, giving the reason why the issue of the first number was delayed; viz., that the vessel containing the types ordered from England had been cast ashore at Cape Cod. This advertisement is dated Jan. 3; and it is added, that the types have now arrived, and that No. 1, for January, 1774, will be published on the first day of February. In the "Spy" of Feb. 10 is this notice, under date of Feb. 6: "This day published, price ten shillings and eight pence [lawful money] per annum to subscribers, No. 1 of the Royal American Magazine, &c., for January, 1774." After describing the plan of the work, the editor continues:—

"And, to complete this plan, will be added (to begin at the end of the first number, and to continue until the whole is finished, printed in an elegant manner, on fine paper, and occasionally ornamented with copperplate prints, exclusive of those particularly for the Magazine *), Governor Hutchinson's History of the Massachusetts Bay; which, when finished, will be worth the cost of the Magazine."

* This Magazine, by the way, is not unworthy the notice of the curious. It contains nineteen engravings, the most of which are by the celebrated Paul Revere. The first number has "A view of the Town of Boston, with several ships of war in the harbour." This view is similar (though on a larger scale) to that which appeared in "Edes & Gills' North American Almanac and Massachusetts Register for the year 1770." See Drake's Boston, p. 747. The number for May contains the curious "Indian Gazette," which was afterwards issued in Thomas's "History of Printing," vol. ii. p. 190. We are told in the Magazine that "this print is engraved from an authentic copy, drawn by a *French* engineer from the *American* original."

Among the "conditions," it is stated that "the publication will always be on or before the last of the month." The first number contained sixteen pages of the History, including the title and preface: all the other numbers contained probably eight pages each. The supplement to the first volume contained twenty-four pages (105 to 128 inclusive) of the History.

On account of "the distresses of the Town of Boston," Thomas resolved to suspend the publication of this Magazine for a short period, after the issue of the first six numbers; and he never resumed it. After some delay, it was purchased by Joseph Greenleaf, who continued it, with the History, to its speedy conclusion, as stated above. Greenleaf used a different type from Thomas: and this peculiarity marks the History; pp. 57 to 152 being printed by the former. In Greenleaf's notice to his subscribers, dated Dec. 31, 1774, and which appears as a preface to "volume i.," he says, —

"I have at length, with difficulty, gone through the last six months of the Magazine. The publication having been suspended near two months by the original undertaker, I have been obliged to publish one oftener than once in three weeks. I now present you with a Supplement, though not promised in the proposals; also with an Index and Titlepage. As it must be a great length of time before the History of Massachusetts Bay will be finished, by being thus slowly published with the Magazine, many of the subscribers have desired that the Supplement might consist wholly of said History. Such subscribers as desire to hasten the completion of the History, by signifying it to the publisher, may have the addition of a whole sheet to every Magazine the year to come, making a proportionable addition to the price, provided that three hundred at least of the subscribers desire it. By this means, twenty-four pages of the History will be published every month. If any persons, not subscribers, choose to have the History alone, monthly, they may, by subscribing."

Further on, he says, —

"Many of the subscribers wish to get rid of Hutchinson's History. I am willing to gratify both those who request its continuance, and those who wish to drop it. Therefore, those subscribers who had rather

have the Magazine without the History, upon signifying the same one month beforehand (provided that three hundred at least shall certify the same), they shall be gratified, and a proportionable abatement be made in the price."

The war, says Thomas, put an end to the Magazine in April; and the edition of Hutchinson, thus commenced, remains a fragment.

As is well known, Governor Hutchinson was superseded in the office of chief magistrate of the Province by the arrival of General Gage in 1774; and, on the 1st of June of that year, he sailed for England. He died there before the close of the war, in 1780.* He left among his papers, in manuscript, a continuation of his History down to the period of his departure from the country. This was published in London in 1828, edited by his grandson, Rev. John Hutchinson, of Trentham, Staffordshire.

The credit of having procured the publication of this volume, which was attended with much difficulty and delay, is mainly due to the zeal and perseverance of Hon. James Savage. We have recently had the privilege of perusing the greater part of the interesting correspondence which took place in reference to it, from the year 1817 to the time when the volume made its appearance in print; and, were it not that this notice is already extended much beyond our original purpose, we should be tempted to give some extracts from the letters.† It having been reported that Governor Hutchinson left, at his decease, in MS., a continuation of his History, Mr. Savage formed a plan, in 1817, of procuring a copy for publication.‡ Accord-

* Governor Hutchinson resided at Brompton, near London. He died June 3, 1780, in the sixty-ninth year of his age, and was buried at Croydon. His eldest son, Thomas, died at Heavitree, near Exeter, in 1811, aged seventy-one; and his son Elisha, at Blurton Parsonage, Trentham, Staffordshire, in 1824, aged eighty. See Hist. and Geneal. Reg. vol. i. pp. 297, 310; Farmer's Geneal. Reg. pp. 155, 156.

† By the kindness of Mr. Savage, I have been favored with a perusal of this correspondence.

‡ In the third volume, Second Series, of our Collections, p. 287, is an extract from a letter of J. Hutchinson, grandson of Governor Hutchinson, written in 1814, in which,

ingly, on the 18th of August of that year, he addressed a letter to Mr. Elisha Hutchinson, a son of Governor Hutchinson, then residing at Birmingham, England, soliciting the favor of allowing a copy to be taken for the purpose indicated. Mr. Hutchinson, however, knew nothing of the manuscript in question. He said he had never seen his father's papers since his death, and was ignorant of what they consisted; that the governor's literary remains were in possession of his (Elisha's) nephew, a son of his deceased elder brother, then residing at Exeter in Devonshire. Inquiries were then made in that direction, and the next year it was announced that a portion of the manuscript had been found, but that the first part unhappily was wanting: additional search would be made for it. The family were reluctant that it should be seen in its fragmentary form. In 1820, Mr. Savage wrote again respecting it, and had his application supported by Judge Davis, President of the Historical Society, by President Kirkland, and by Governor Gore. It was thought desirable to procure the fragment, even if the missing part could not be found. Soon after, in that year, the gratifying intelligence was received, that the missing portion had been recovered; and negotiations were continued, with a view to secure the publication of the work. The correspondence on the part of the Hutchinson family was conducted by a Mr. Sabbatier, a connection, and by Rev. John Hutchinson, a son of Elisha, who subsequently edited the work. Owing to the terms they insisted on, no arrangement could then be effected, and the correspondence terminated in 1823. In 1826, it was revived by Mr. Savage, and terms of publication were finally agreed upon. Mr. Savage was solicitous that the work should be published in this country. The Hutchinsons insisted that it should be published in London; alleging, as a reason, that the

alluding to the papers of the latter in his possession, he says, "There is an unpublished volume of Hutchinson's History; but the family concluded it to be unfit for the press in England; and the same reason would prevent their sending it to the United States."

other volumes of the History were originally issued there ; which, as we have seen, was not the case. They therefore arranged with John Murray, of London, for the publication of one thousand copies, five hundred of which, as per agreement, were taken by Mr. Savage and his friends for the American market, at a charge of £200. These were sent over in paper covers, and thus entitled : “ The | History | of the | Province | of | Massachusetts Bay | from | the year 1750, until 1774. | By Mr. Hutchinson, | Late Governor of that Province. | Vol. III. | London : | John Murray, Albemarle Street. | MDCCC-XXVIII.” pp. 551, including a large Appendix of official papers. The remaining five hundred copies, designed for the London trade, were published as an independent work, as the editor supposed but few persons in England would be likely to possess the other two volumes. These contained a preface, and a dedication to Lord Lyndhurst, which were wanting in the other copies, and were entitled “ The | History of the Province | of | Massachusetts Bay | from 1749 to 1774, | comprising a detailed narrative of the | origin and early stages | of the | American Revolution. | By Thomas Hutchinson, Esq., LL.D., | formerly Governor of the Province. | Edited from the Author’s MS. by his Grandson, | the Rev. John Hutchinson, M.A. | London : | John Murray, Albemarle Street. | MDCCC-XXVIII.”

The sale of this volume was slow. Of the five hundred copies ordered for this country, a large number were, some years after, bought by one of our booksellers for a trifling sum ; and, in order to give the volume the appearance of an independent work, rather than one of a series, he had a new title printed, omitting “ vol. iii.,” and put into some of the copies, which have been thrown upon the market. Many of those designed for the London trade have also found their way here.

These particulars relative to this volume may seem too minute and even trivial to the present reader of this notice ;

but they may at least serve to solve the perplexity of some future antiquary and book-collector.

The editor partly promised a biographical volume relative to his ancestor, "with curious and interesting details" from papers in the possession of the family: "among these may be particularized a conversation between his Majesty George III., the Earl of Dartmouth, and Governor Hutchinson, immediately on the arrival of the latter in England." This promise is as yet unfulfilled.

Governor Hutchinson's historical labors are of the highest value, and Massachusetts owes him a debt of gratitude for what he has done to illustrate her annals. Although lacking that elegance of style so pleasing in an historian, yet, as his work will ever be regarded as of the first authority by the student of our history, it can never be wholly superseded. The ample materials he possessed for the earlier portion of it have already been referred to, and he was well fitted to make use of them. Hutchinson's mind was eminently a judicial one; and candor, moderation, and a desire for truth, appear to have guided his pen. In a note which he wrote, near to the close of his life, on the back of an unpublished manuscript on American affairs, left among his papers, he says, —

"In the course of my education, I found no part of science a more pleasing study than history, and no part of the history of any country more useful than that of its government and laws. The history of Great Britain and of its dominions was of all others the most delightful to me, and a thorough knowledge of the nature and constitution of the supreme and of the subordinate governments thereof I considered as what would be peculiarly beneficial to me in the line of life upon which I was entering; and the public employments to which I was early called, and sustained for near thirty years together, gave me many advantages for the acquisition of this knowledge."

In his last volume, he furnishes a detailed narrative of the principal events immediately preceding the Revolution, —

"All which he saw, and part of which he was."

His subject was a delicate one ; but it is treated with his usual good judgment, and with an excellent spirit.

Hutchinson's volumes, particularly the first and second editions of the History, and the collection of "Papers," have become quite rare, and are not often found, except at the breaking-up of some old library, and then they usually command a high price. Even the edition of 1795 is fast taking its place among those books that have to be sought for before they can be obtained. Before many years, a new edition of the first two volumes of the History will probably be called for, and possibly a reprint of the "Papers." The preparation of a new edition of the latter would involve a collation with the originals, so far as they now exist. More attractive and popular histories of our State may in a measure take the place of this with the great mass of readers : but, to the curious and critical, Hutchinson will always have a value ; and, to the student who seeks for the sources of our history, his work will always be indispensable.

In conclusion, we will briefly allude to a few miscellaneous publications of Governor Hutchinson, historical and controversial. Dr. Allen says he published, in 1764, "A Brief State of the Claim of the Colony." We have never met with a work of his with this title. On the 1st of June, 1763, the General Assembly of Massachusetts "Resolved, That his Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor, be desired in the recess of the Court to prepare a very particular state of the controversy between this government and the governments of Connecticut and New York, respecting the boundary lines between them." On the 23d of December the Report was announced, and on the 28th accepted ; and the secretary was directed to transmit the same to Mr. Agent Mauduit. It was also "Resolved, That the above Report be printed at the end of the Journal of this session." This Report, as printed, is entitled "The Case of the Provinces of Massachusetts Bay and New York, respecting the boundary line between the two Provinces. Boston ; New England.

Printed by Green and Russell," &c., "1764." This is a valuable paper, and may be the work intended by Dr. Allen.

Previously to this, a committee was appointed by both Houses "to prepare a State of the title of the Province to the Country between the rivers Kennebeck and St. Croix." From this committee Hutchinson made a report, dated Jan. 18, 1763, which was accepted in concurrence, Feb. 1, and a copy directed to be sent to the agent. It was also printed at the end of the Journal of 1762-3.

In 1761, quite an interest was excited on the question of the currency, and an earnest newspaper controversy was carried on between Hutchinson and the younger Otis. In the College Library is a pamphlet of twenty-seven pages, being "Considerations on lowering the value of Gold Coins within the Province of the Massachusetts Bay." It bears no date; but it is advertised in the "Evening Post" of Jan. 18, 1762, as "this day published." The first eight pages are reprinted from one of Hutchinson's papers in the "Evening Post" of Dec. 14, 1761, to which the pamphlet is a reply. See also the "Evening Post" of Jan. 4 and 11, 1762.

The half-dozen letters which Hutchinson wrote in 1768 and 1769 to his friend Thomas Whately, of London, and which, in 1773, were returned to the Province by Dr. Franklin, were, with the others sent back with them, printed at Boston in that year, and at London in 1774.

Many of Hutchinson's official papers, while acting governor and governor of the Province, were published at the time, and have since (the most of them) been republished in the collection of State Papers prepared by Alden Bradford, and issued in 1818.*

* This work is entitled "Speeches of the Governors of Massachusetts, from 1765 to 1775; and The Answers of the House of Representatives, to the Same; with their Resolutions and Addresses for that period. And other Public Papers, relative to the dispute between this country and Great Britain, which led to the Independence of the United States. Boston: Printed by Russell and Gardner, proprietors of the work. 1818."

Many valuable unpublished papers and letters of his are in the archives of the State, and in the library of the Historical Society.

MARCH MEETING.

In consequence of the unfinished state of the rooms, in the new arrangement, the Standing Committee voted to dispense with the meeting at the rooms at noon, and to accept the invitation of the President to meet at his house in the evening. Accordingly, the Society held their stated monthly meeting at the house of Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, in Pemberton Square, Boston, on Thursday evening, March 12, at half-past seven o'clock; the President in the chair.

The Recording Secretary being necessarily detained from the meeting, Mr. Deane was chosen to that office *pro tem.*

The Corresponding Secretary *pro tem.* transmitted to the meeting the following communications; viz.: A letter from Dr. Josiah Bartlett, of Concord, tendering his resignation as a member of this Society; a letter from William Paver, Esq., of York, England, dated Jan. 29, 1857, with his thanks for his election as a Corresponding Member, and his acceptance thereof; and, accompanying this letter, "a list of the pedigrees contained in his consolidated visitations of Yorkshire, being those taken in 1584, 1612, and 1665," and therewith "a list of alliances and matches" containing all the names mentioned in the "visitations" other than those of the families whose pedigrees are given.